



**The Holy Great Martyr Barbara
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on December 4.**

Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When she came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house.; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two that her father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger on the marble of the bath-house, leaving the sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron tool. When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there. When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.

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*Dismissal Hymn of the Martyr. Fourth Tone
(But according to some texts, Plagal of Fourth Tone)*

LET us honour Saint Barbara, for she hath broken the snares of the enemy; and like a sparrow, she, the all-modest maiden, was delivered out of them by the help and weapon of the Cross.

*Kontakion of the Martyr. Fourth Tone
Thou Who wast raised up*

O MODEST trophy-bearer, as thou didst follow * Him that in Trinity is hymned with true reverence, * thou didst forsake devotion to idolatry; * nor didst thou shrink back in fear * from the threats of the tyrants * while contesting manfully * in the battle, O Barbara, * while ever loudly singing: I adore * the Holy Trinity, the One Divinity.

